

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 11, 13-16, 18-21 and 23-27 have been examined on their merits.

Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 12, 17 and 22 have been cancelled without prejudice and/or disclaimer.

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that claims 2, 3, 5-8 and 11 are allowed.

Applicant herein amends independent claims 13, 16, 18, 21, 23, 26 and 27 with recitations similar to the recitations of allowed claim 7. Applicant requests entry of the amendments to claims 13, 16, 18, 21, 23, 26 and 27, since they will place the application in condition for allowance, and do not require any further search and/or consideration on the part of the Patent Office.

Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 11, 13-16, 18-21 and 23-27 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 13-16, 18-21 and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Lee (U.S. Patent No. 6,345,275) in view of Kasutani *et al.*, *Image Retrieval System Using Compact Color Layout Descriptor*, Materials of the 4th Image Media Processing Symposium, Japan, 29 September 1999, IMPS99, pp. 89-90. Applicant traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 13-16, 18-21 and 23-27 for at least the reasons discussed below.

With respect to independent claim 13, Applicant has amended claim 13 to recite that the first coefficient transforming means and the second coefficient transforming means perform coefficient transforms in a manner that fine quantization is carried out on transform coefficients

having a small power and coarse quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a large power. Applicant submits that the combination of Lee and Kasutani *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least this recitation of amended claim 13, as evidenced by at least the Patent Office's allowance of independent claim 7. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 13 is in condition for allowance, and further submits that claims 14 and 15 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 13. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 13-15.

With respect to independent claim 16, Applicant has amended claim 16 to recite that the first coefficient transforming means and the second coefficient transforming means perform coefficient transforms in a manner that fine quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a small power and coarse quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a large power. Applicant submits that the combination of Lee and Kasutani *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least this recitation of amended claim 16, as evidenced by at least the Patent Office's allowance of independent claim 7. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 16 is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claim 16.

With respect to independent claim 18, Applicant has amended claim 18 to recite that the coefficient transforming means performs coefficient transforms in a manner that fine quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a small power and coarse quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a large power. Applicant submits that the combination of Lee and Kasutani *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least this recitation of

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amended claim 18, as evidenced by at least the Patent Office's allowance of independent claim 7. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 18 is in condition for allowance, and further submits that claims 19 and 20 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 18. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 18-20.

With respect to independent claim 21, Applicant has amended claim 21 to recite that the coefficient transforming means performs coefficient transforms in a manner that fine quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a small power and coarse quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a large power. Applicant submits that the combination of Lee and Kasutani *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least this recitation of amended claim 21, as evidenced by at least the Patent Office's allowance of independent claim 7. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 21 is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claim 21.

With respect to independent claim 23, Applicant has amended claim 23 to recite that specified transform processing is performed in a manner that fine quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a small power and coarse quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a large power. Applicant submits that the combination of Lee and Kasutani *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least this recitation of amended claim 23, as evidenced by at least the Patent Office's allowance of independent claim 7. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 23 is in condition for allowance, and further submits that claims 24 and 24 are allowable as well,

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at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 23. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 23-25.

With respect to independent claim 26, Applicant has amended claim 26 to recite that specified transform processing is performed in a manner that fine quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a small power and coarse quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a large power. Applicant submits that the combination of Lee and Kasutani *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least this recitation of amended claim 26, as evidenced by at least the Patent Office's allowance of independent claim 7. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 26 is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claim 26.

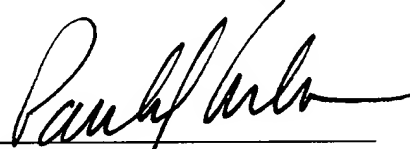
With respect to independent claim 27, Applicant has amended claim 27 to recite that specified transform processing is performed in a manner that fine quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a small power and coarse quantization is carried out on transform coefficients having a large power. Applicant submits that the combination of Lee and Kasutani *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least this recitation of amended claim 27, as evidenced by at least the Patent Office's allowance of independent claim 7. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 27 is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claim 27.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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